MARVEL
25th Jan.'86
№945 30p
THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC AUTOBOT
GIANT Poster
FREE Inside!

THE TRANSFORMERS

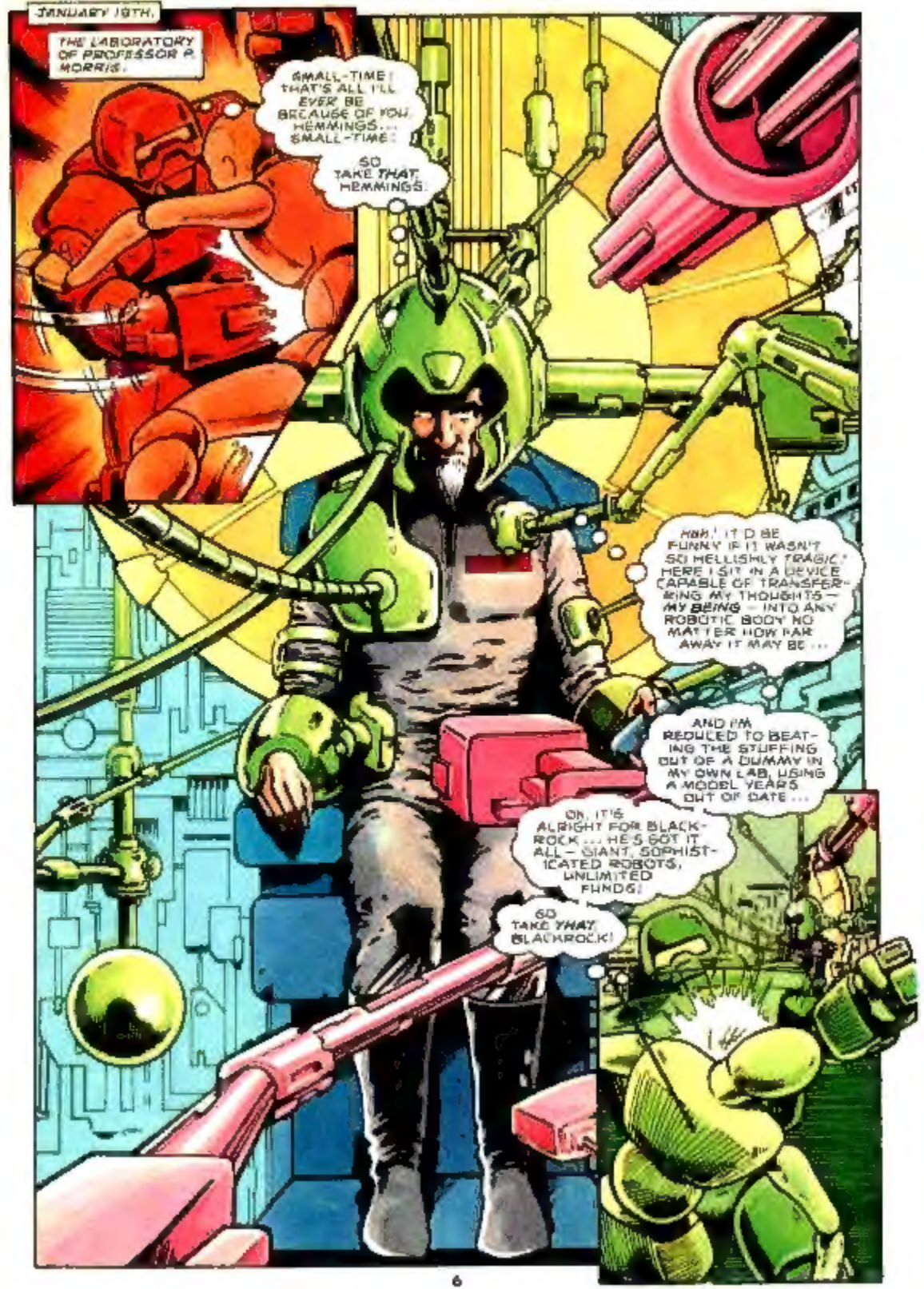
JANUARY 20TH.
"FOOLS... BLIND, STUPID FOOLS!"
LAKE DENA A MAN-MADE RESERVOIR IN NORTHERN OREGON.
"I TOLD THEM, SHOWED THEM... WOULD THEY LISTEN? NO, NO, NO — THEY JUST STUCK THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND... BIG FAT OSTRICHES IN BUSINESS SUITS."
THERE ARE NO FISH IN LAKE DENA
"WHY DIDN'T THEY LISTEN?!"

JANUARY 19TH
ROXXON OIL'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANT PORTLAND, OREGON.
LISTEN TO ME THIS...
...THIS IS WHERE ROXXON'S FUTURE LIES!

THE ICARUS THEORY PART ONE

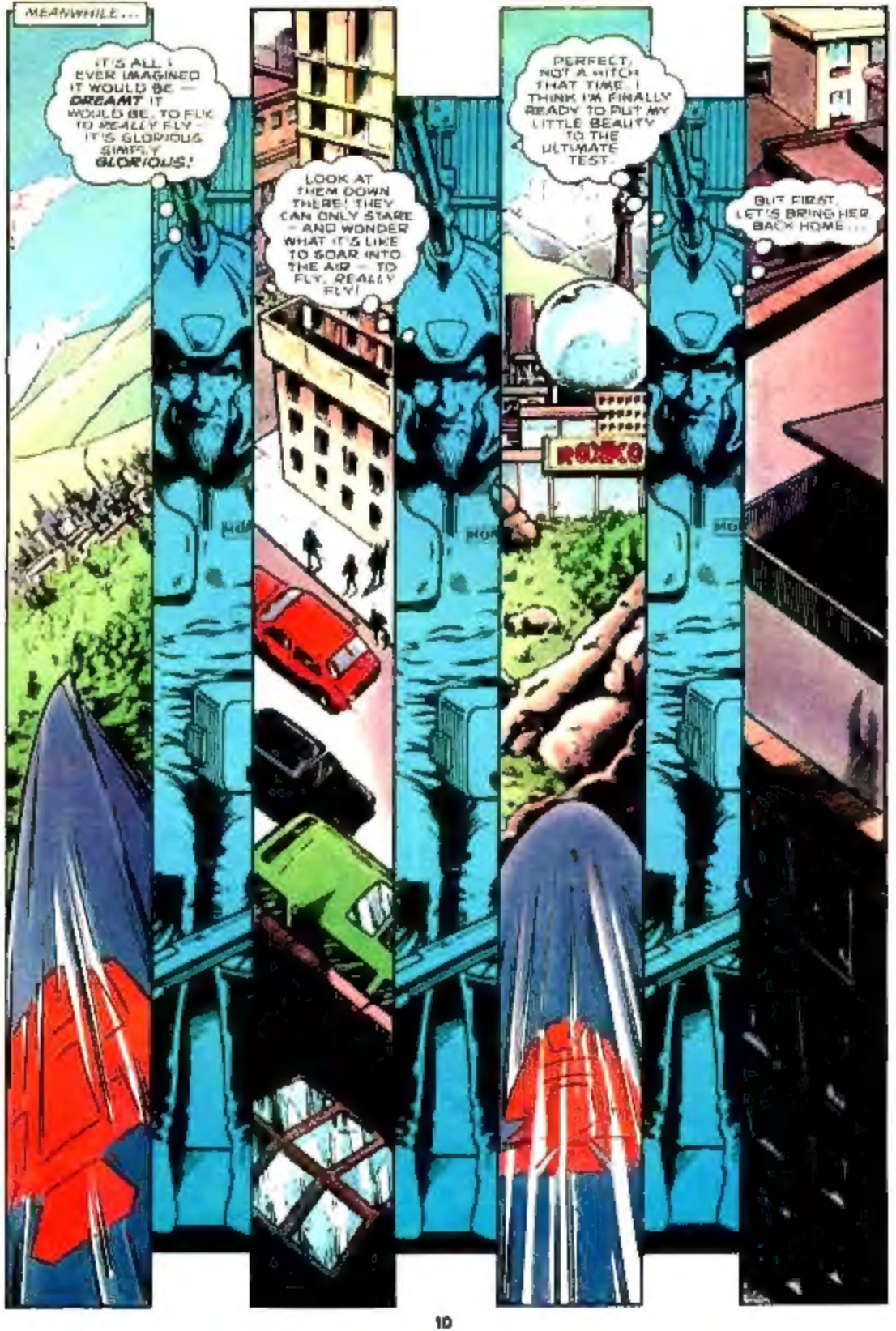
SCRIPT SIMON FURMAN | ART BARRY KITSON | LETTERS STARKINGS | COLOURS GINA HART | EDITOR IAN RIMMER

JUST LOOK AT THIS SUPERB SPECIMEN OF ADVANCED ROBOTICS.
FOR MONTHS NOW THIS FINE FELLOW AND HIS COMRADES HAVE HELD OREGON IN A GRIP OF TERROR!
THE ARMED FORCES HAVE PROVEN HELPLESS IN THE FACE OF THEIR SUPERIOR DEFENCES AND FIREPOWER.
AND THE PRESS...
DAILY BUGLE
GIANT ROBOTS
AMPAGE!
THE PRESS ARE BAFFLED! Oh, THEY'VE COME UP WITH THEIR THEORIES – ALIEN INVASIONS, WAR MACHINES CONTROLLED BY SOME FOREIGN POWER – BUT THEY ARE WRONG!
ZZZZ
THEY ORIGINATE FROM THIS VERY COUNTRY...
THIS VERY STATE!
GENTLEMEN, I PUT IT TO YOU THAT THIS INVASION IS NOT THE WORK OF SOME BUG-EYED ALIEN, NOT SOME IRON-CURTAIN DICTATOR...
BUT THIS MAN, OUR LEADING COMPET– ITOR...
G.B. BLACKROCK!


JANUARY 10TH.
THE LABORATORY OF PROFESSOR P. MORRIS.
SMALL-TIME! THAT'S ALL I'LL EVER BE BECAUSE OF YOU, HEMMINGS... SMALL-TIME!
SO TAKE THAT, HEMMINGS.
HAH! IT'D BE FUNNY IF IT WASN'T SO HELLISHLY TRAGIC. HERE I SIT IN A DEVICE CAPABLE OF TRANSFERRING MY THOUGHTS — MY BEING — INTO ANY ROBOTIC BODY NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY IT MAY BE...
AND I'M REDUCED TO BEATING THE STUFFING OUT OF A DUMMY IN MY OWN LAB, USING A MODEL YEARS OUT OF DATE...
OH, IT'S ALRIGHT FOR BLACKROCK... HE'S GOT IT ALL — GIANT, SOPHISTICATED ROBOTS, UNLIMITED FUNDS!
SO TAKE THAT, BLACKROCK!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

JANUARY 25TH.
THE ARK, A VAST STARSHIP LYING IN THE HUSK OF MOUNT ST. HILARY, OREGON.
THIS IS OPTIMUS PRIME, AS LEADER OF THE AUTOBOTS HE IS A FIGURE THAT DEMANDS RESPECT.
BUT, AS RECENT EVENTS HAVE BROUGHT HOME TO HIM...
THAT RESPECT MUST BE EARNED.
ERRORS OF JUDGEMENT ON HIS PART RESULTED IN NEAR MUTINY BY HIS TROOPS.
AND WORSE, HIS INABILITY TO SEE THROUGH A DECEPTICON RUSE LEFT HIS COMRADE - AND FRIEND - BUMBLEBEE NEAR DEATH! *
* TRANSFORMERS #44
HE HOPES IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SET THINGS RIGHT...
PRIME!
IT PLEASES ME TO SEE YOU IN SUCH GOOD SPIRITS, BUMBLEBEE. I'D MUST TALK WITH YOU...
HEY - I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA SAY... I MESSED UP, RIGHT?
I DISOBEYED ORDERS AND NEARLY GOT MYSELF KILLED... HECK, I NEARLY GOT YOU KILLED FOR THAT MATTER!
I JUST HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES.
BUMBLE-BEE, I...
MANY MISTAKES WERE MADE THESE PAST DAYS.
PERHAPS THEY SHOULD SERVE AS A VALUABLE LESSON. NO MATTER HOW INFALLIBLE WE MAY IMAGINE OURSELVES TO BE, ALL OF US POSSESS A CAPACITY FOR ERROR--ALL OF US!

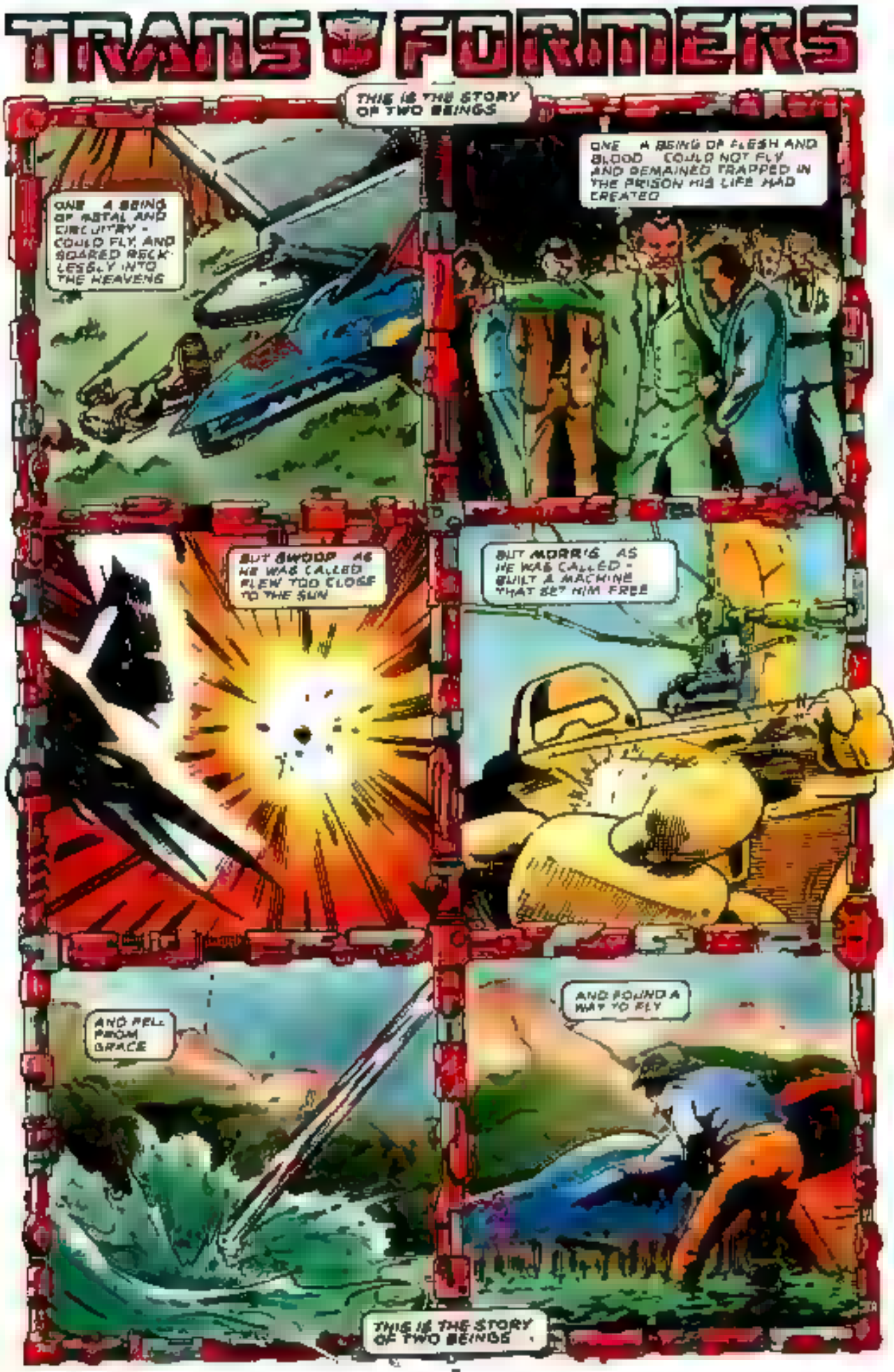

MEANWHILE...
IT'S ALL I EVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE — **DREAMT** IT WOULD BE. TO FLY. TO REALLY FLY — IT'S GLORIOUS SIMPLY **GLORIOUS!**
LOOK AT THEM DOWN THERE! THEY CAN ONLY STARE — AND WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SOAR INTO THE AIR — TO FLY. REALLY FLY!
PERFECT. NOT A HITCH THAT TIME. I THINK I'M FINALLY READY TO PUT MY LITTLE BEAUTY TO THE ULTIMATE TEST.
ROSCO
BUT FIRST, LET'S BRING HER BACK HOME...

"BACK TO ROXXON"
THAT'S ODD. I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING FROM MORRIS' LAB. NO-ONE'S SCHEDULED TO BE WORKING TODAY...
NAH. PROBABLY NOTHING.
STILL, WON'T HURT NONE TO CHECK IT OUT
AH. A PERFECT LANDING. NOW TO GET INTO THE LAB BEFORE ANYONE SPOTS...
...ME...
WHAT THE HECK?
WHAT'S ALL THIS PROF?
BIT OF PRIVATE WORK? MAYBE? FREELANCING WITH ROXXON FACILITIES?
Y-YES... ER, NO — I MEAN...
NAUGHTY NAUGHTY
HEY — DON'T SWEAT IT!
I'LL KEEP QUIET... FOR A PRICE!
WHAT'S IT WORTH, PROF?

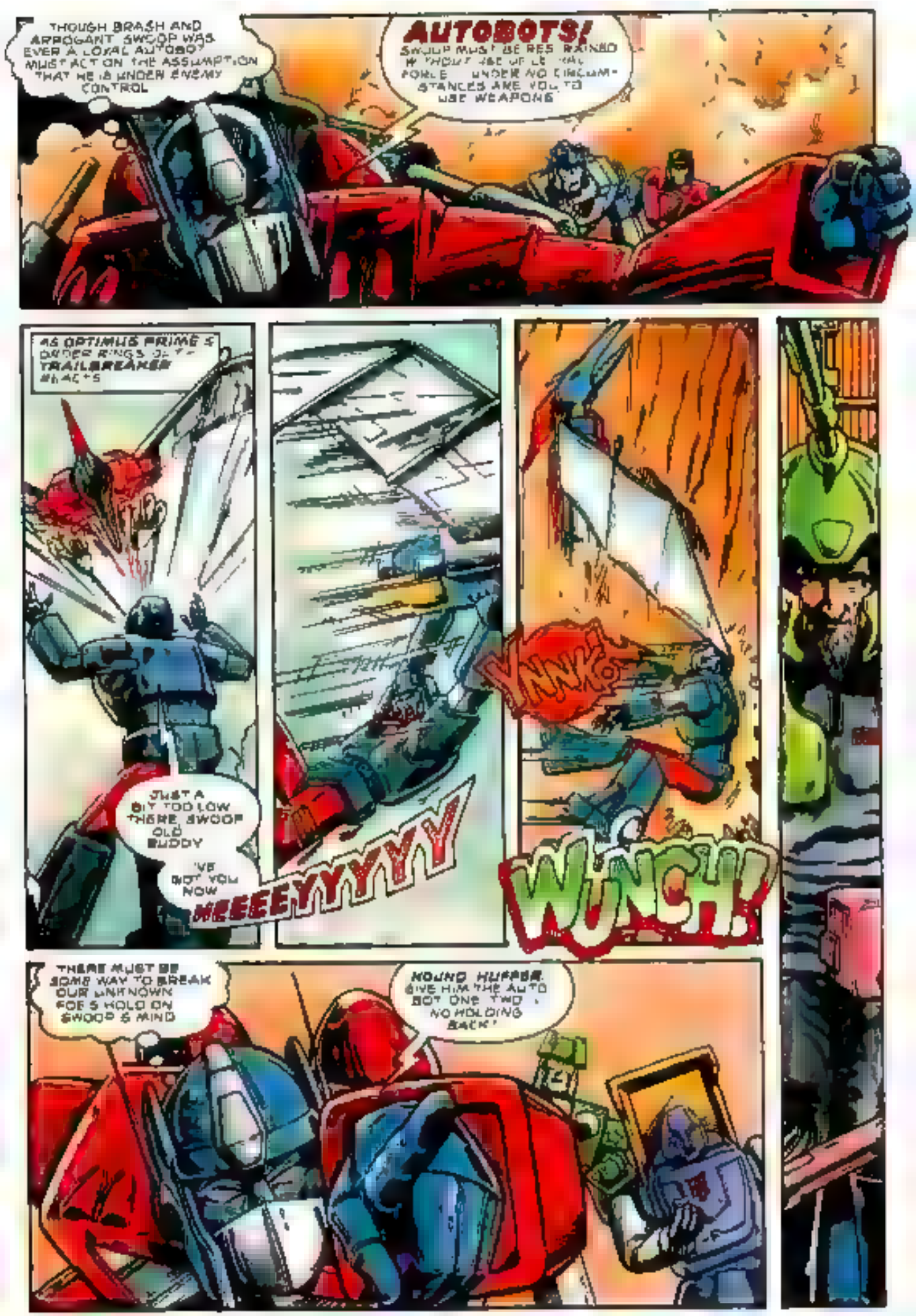
"NO."
THOUSAND BUCKS? TWO? THINK OF THE SHAME, PROF. THE DISGRACE.
"NO."
"NO."
WHA—?
NO-
NOOOO!
"Oh, No."
I-I STRUCK TOO HARD...
I'VE KILLED HIM.
I'VE GOT TO TURN MYSELF IN...
GOT TO...
"GOT TO STAY WITH THE PLAN. NOTHING MUST DETER ME..."
"BLACKROCK'S ROBOTS MUST BE DESTROYED!"

SHAKROOM!
Uhhh... QUICKLY, AUTOBOTS — REGROUP! WE MUST COUNTER-STRIKE IMMEDIATELY!
LOOK! THERE'S SOMETHING COMING THROUGH!
DESPITE THE CIRCUIT-NUMBING FORCE OF THE BLAST, THE AUTOBOTS STAND READY FOR ANYTHING...
ANYTHING BUT THIS —
SWOOP!
NEXT: DREAMS DIE HARD!

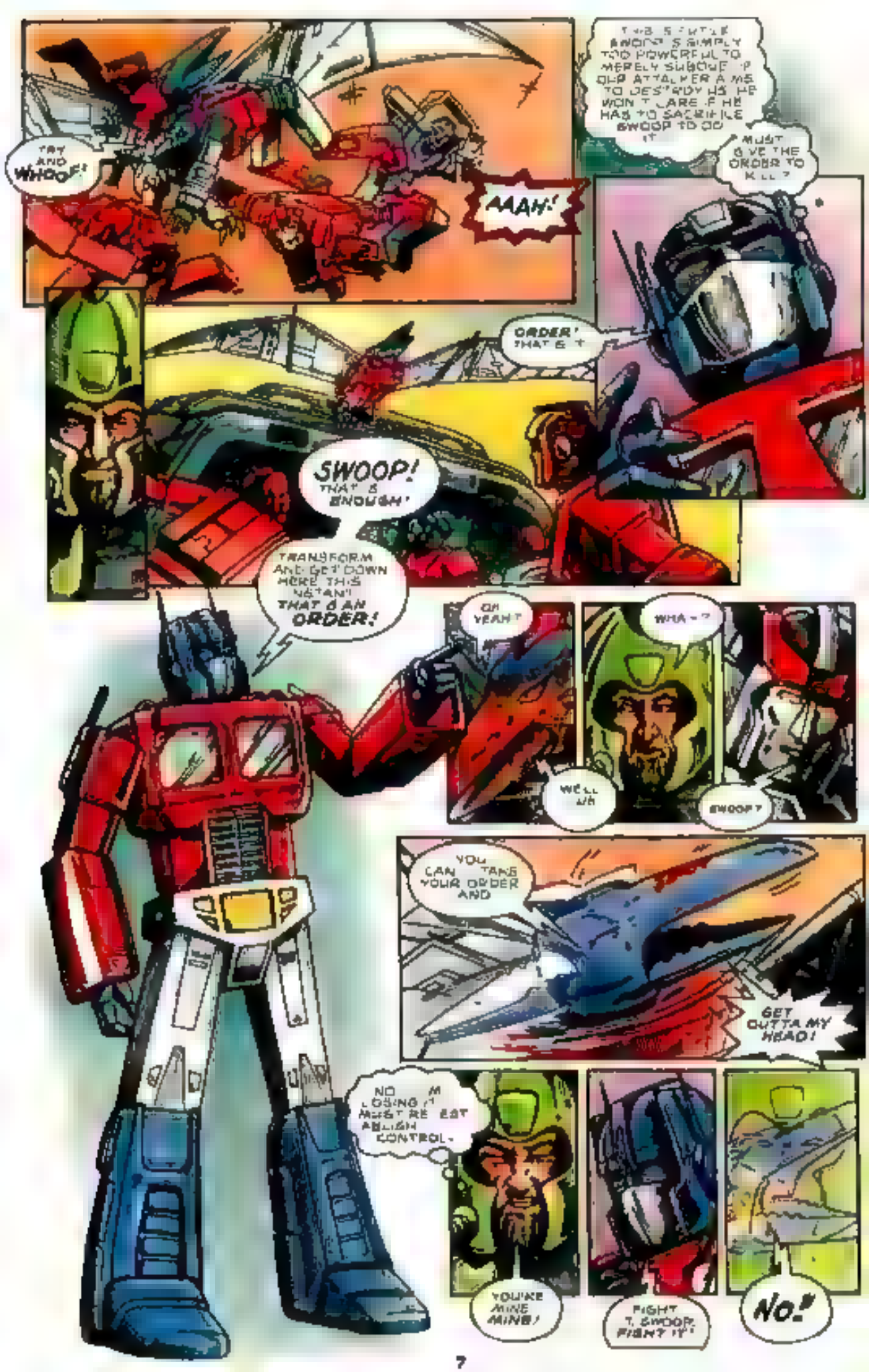
MARVEL
1st Feb.'86
№44 30p
THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC AUTOBOT
IN ONE SAVAGE SWOOP


TRANSFORMERS
THIS IS THE STORY OF TWO BEINGS
ONE - A BEING OF METAL AND CIRCUITRY - COULD FLY, AND SOARED RECKLESSLY INTO THE HEAVENS
ONE - A BEING OF FLESH AND BLOOD - COULD NOT FLY AND REMAINED TRAPPED IN THE PRISON HIS LIFE HAD CREATED
BUT SWOOP - AS HE WAS CALLED - FLEW TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN
BUT MORRIS - AS HE WAS CALLED - BUILT A MACHINE THAT SET HIM FREE
AND FELL FROM GRACE
AND FOUND A WAY TO FLY
THIS IS THE STORY OF TWO BEINGS

TWO BEINGS WHO BECAME ONE!
THE ICARUS THEORY
SWOOP!
ACK!
INCREDIBLE WAS TOLD THAT SWOOPER SHED WHEN THE BATTLE DROID GUARDIAN SELF DESTRUCTED & YET HERE HE IS - SCARRED BUT INTACT
AND NEVER MORE LETHAL!
STORY BY SIMON FURMAN
ART BARRY KITSON
LETTERS STARKINGS
COLOURS & PLACE
EDITOR IAN RIMMER
TRANSFORMERS # 32


THOUGH BRASH AND ARROGANT SWOOP WAS EVER A LOYAL AUTOBOT MUST ACT ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HE IS UNDER ENEMY CONTROL
AUTOBOTS!
SWOOP MUST BE RESTRAINED IF POSSIBLE USE OF LETHAL FORCE UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO USE WEAPONS
AS OPTIMUS PRIME'S ORDER RINGS OUT - TRAILBREAKER REACTS
JUST A BIT TOO LOW THERE, SWOOP OLD BUDDY
I'VE GOT YOU NOW
NEEEEYYYYYY
YNNK!
WUNCH!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO BREAK OUR UNKNOWN FOE'S HOLD ON SWOOP'S MIND
HOUND HUFFER GIVE HIM THE AUTOBOT ONE TWO - NO HOLDING BACK!

NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID IMAGINE HOW EXC T NG THIS WOULD BE THE EXH LERATION OF FLIGHT THE THRILL OF BATTLE GLORIOUS!
AND BEST OF ALL IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ONCE HAVE DESTROYED BLACKROCK ROBOTS, NO ONE WILL EVER PUSH ME AROUND AGAIN!
C MON THEN, SWOOP, SEE IF YOU CAN GET ME
WITH OVER LOADED OPTICAL SENSORS
NEEARGH! MY EYES!
ALL YOURS, HUFFER!
KRAIIG!
HE S DOWN
HOLD HIM!


TRY AND WHOOP!
AAAH!
THIS CREATURE SWOOP IS SIMPLY TOO POWERFUL TO MERELY SUBDUE. IF OUR ATTACKER AMS TO DESTROY HIM HE WON'T CARE IF HE HAS TO SACRIFICE SWOOP TO DO IT.
MUST I GIVE THE ORDER TO KILL?
ORDER? THAT IS IT
SWOOP! THAT IS ENOUGH!
TRANSFORM AND GET DOWN HERE THIS INSTANT! THAT IS AN ORDER!
OH YEAH?
WHA--?
WELL UH
SWOOP?
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR ORDER AND
GET OUTTA MY HEAD!
NO I'M LOSING IT! MUST RE-EST ABLISH CONTROL.
YOU'RE MINE, MINE!
FIGHT IT, SWOOP! FIGHT IT!
NO!

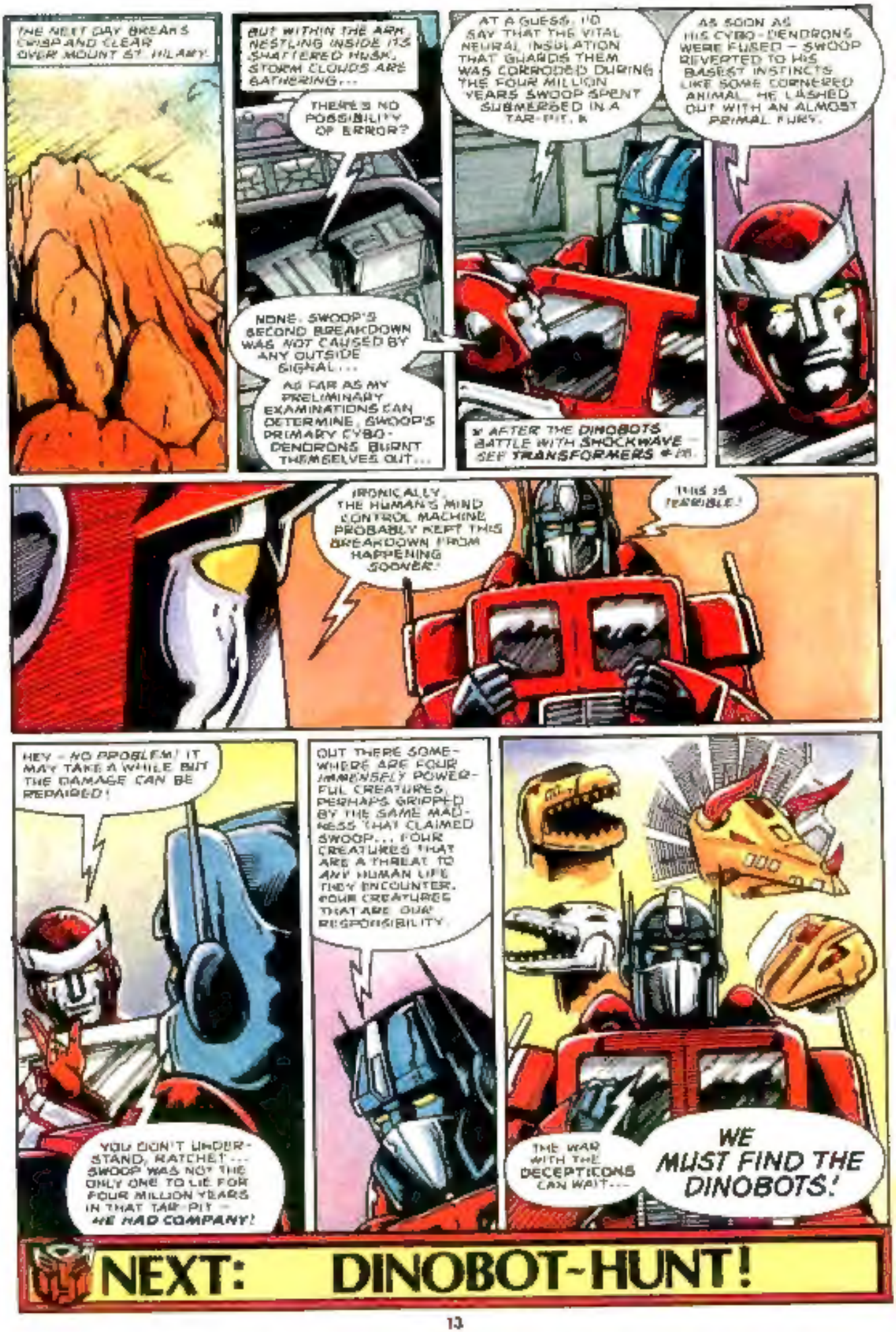
MINE!
MINE!
Nooo!

LATER
HOUND ARE YOU GETTING SWOOP'S SIGNAL?
YEAH HE'S ONE POINT TWO KILOMETRES DUE WEST OF US AND SLOWING
BY THE WAY I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN SWOOP WENT I LOOKED AS THOUGH YOU KNEW HE'D REACT TO YOUR ORDER THE WAY HE DID AND YET YOU'VE NEVER MET HIM BEFORE
WHY DO NOT SWOOP THE DINOBOT BUILT IN CYBERTRON SWOOP WAS KNOWN AS DIVEBOMB A MEMBER OF THE ELITE FLYING CORPS
THE AIRBORNE AUTOBOTS I WAS LEFT IN THE TRACK OF COMMANDING
GAMBOR THAT SWOOP'S HATRED OF MY AUTHORITY HAD SURVIVED THE INTERVENING YEARS
SWOOP DECLARED MY LEADERSHIP WAS FAULTY TO THE EXTENT WHERE IT REFUSED POINT BLANK TO OBEY MY ORDERS
AND WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SET HIM FREE
YOU'RE DEAD

NO...NO, PLEASE, NO!! I DIDN'T REALISE — I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND..
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST MACHINES — JUST BLACKROCK'S MECHANICAL ARMY!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD THINK, AND FEEL. PLEASE BELIEVE ME!
DON'T! YOU'RE FREE NOW — I'VE HARMED NO-ONE, I —
I DESERVE TO DIE!
THE GUARD, I KILLED THE GUARD...
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE PLANT...
YOU'RE CERTAIN THIS IS THE PLACE?
DEFINITELY. READINGS PLACE SWOOP! RIGHT INSIDE.
LOOK! SOMEONE'S COMING OUT...

TO THINK THAT THIS INSIGNIFICANT BEING CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE...
HERE... YOU HAVE HIM!!
A HUMAN?
...A HUMAN WAS ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF ONE WHOSE LIFE FORCE STEMS FROM THE POWER OF THE SACRED CREATION MATRIX ITSELF?
SUCH A FEAT BEGGARS THE IMAGINATION.
WHAT DID YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS?
I-I WANTED TO PROVE MYSELF TO THE PEOPLE WHO MOCKED MY WORK... PROVE THAT MY THEORY WAS RIGHT!
I ASSUMED THAT YOU, AND THOSE LIKE YOU, WERE MINDLESS AUTOMATONS, CONTROLLED BY A MAN CALLED BLACKROCK AND THAT THE ONE I FOUND HAD BEEN LEFT FOR DEAD.
I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY... ALWAYS DREAMT OF SOARING FREE INTO THE SKY...
ONCE I'D BEGUN IT BECAME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO LET GO. I FLEW HIGHER, HIGHER...
FINALLY, I FLEW TOO HIGH, TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN, AND LIKE ICARUS FOUND THAT MY WINGS WERE MADE OF WAX...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
SUCH INSIGHT ON YOUR PART MERITS FORGIVENESS... BUT ONLY FROM US.
ANY CRIMES YOU COMMITTED WHILE IN CONTROL OF SWOOP MUST BE PUNISHED BY YOUR LAW.
WELL, THAT ALL SEEMS TO HAVE RESOLVED ITSELF QUITE NEATLY, EH SWOOP? SOON AS WE'RE BACK AT THE ARK, I'LL GET TO WORK ON REPAIRING YOUR DAMAGED BODYWORK.
SWOOP?

NNUNNGH!
KRAAACH!
RAAAAK!
NOT AGAIN!
IT'S NOT MY DOING — I SWEAR IT!
I BELIEVE YOU, HUMAN... BUT YOU DO HAVE THE MEANS TO STOP IT!
AND SO, AFTER MORRIS AND HIS MACHINE HAD BROUGHT SWOOP BACK INTO LINE...
BEGIN YOUR EXAMINATION OF SWOOP ON THE WAY BACK TO THE ARK... I WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM — AND WHY.
SHOULDN'T WE CHECK ON THE HUMAN? WE ONLY HAVE HIS WORD THAT HE'LL TURN HIMSELF IN.
NO, I BELIEVE WE CAN TRUST HIM. HE HAS LEARNT THE FOLLY OF HIS ACTIONS, HE USED HIS MACHINE TO HELP US THIS TIME AND MADE NO ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE...
COME, LET US LEAVE QUICKLY. SOON OTHER HUMANS WILL ARRIVE IN ANSWER TO THE ALARM'S CALL...
CLANG
EEEEEE
"WE'LL LEAVE THEM TO PICK UP THE PIECES..."


THE NEXT DAY BREAKS CRISP AND CLEAR OVER MOUNT ST. HILARY.
BUT WITHIN THE ARK, NESTLING INSIDE ITS SHATTERED HUSK, STORM CLOUDS ARE GATHERING...
THERE'S NO POSSIBILITY OF ERROR?
NONE. SWOOP'S SECOND BREAKDOWN WAS NOT CAUSED BY ANY OUTSIDE SIGNAL...
AS FAR AS MY PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS CAN DETERMINE, SWOOP'S PRIMARY CYBO-DENDRONS BURNT THEMSELVES OUT...
AT A GUESS, I'D SAY THAT THE VITAL NEURAL INSULATION THAT GUARDS THEM WAS CORRODED DURING THE FOUR MILLION YEARS SWOOP SPENT SUBMERGED IN A TAR-PIT. *
AS SOON AS HIS CYBO-DENDRONS WERE FUSED — SWOOP REVERTED TO HIS BASEST INSTINCTS LIKE SOME CORNERED ANIMAL. HE LASHED OUT WITH AN ALMOST PRIMAL FURY.
* AFTER THE DINOBOTS BATTLE WITH SHOCKWAVE — SEE TRANSFORMERS #
IRONICALLY, THE HUMAN'S MIND CONTROL MACHINE PROBABLY KEPT THIS BREAKDOWN FROM HAPPENING SOONER.
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
HEY — NO PROBLEM! IT MAY TAKE A WHILE BUT THE DAMAGE CAN BE REPAIRED!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, RATCHET... SWOOP WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO LIE FOR FOUR MILLION YEARS IN THAT TAR-PIT — HE HAD COMPANY!
OUT THERE SOMEWHERE ARE FOUR IMMENSELY POWERFUL CREATURES, PERHAPS GRIPPED BY THE SAME MADNESS THAT CLAIMED SWOOP... FOUR CREATURES THAT ARE A THREAT TO ANY HUMAN LIFE THEY ENCOUNTER. FOUR CREATURES THAT ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITY.
THE WAR WITH THE DECEPTICONS CAN WAIT...
WE MUST FIND THE DINOBOTS!
NEXT: DINOBOT-HUNT!